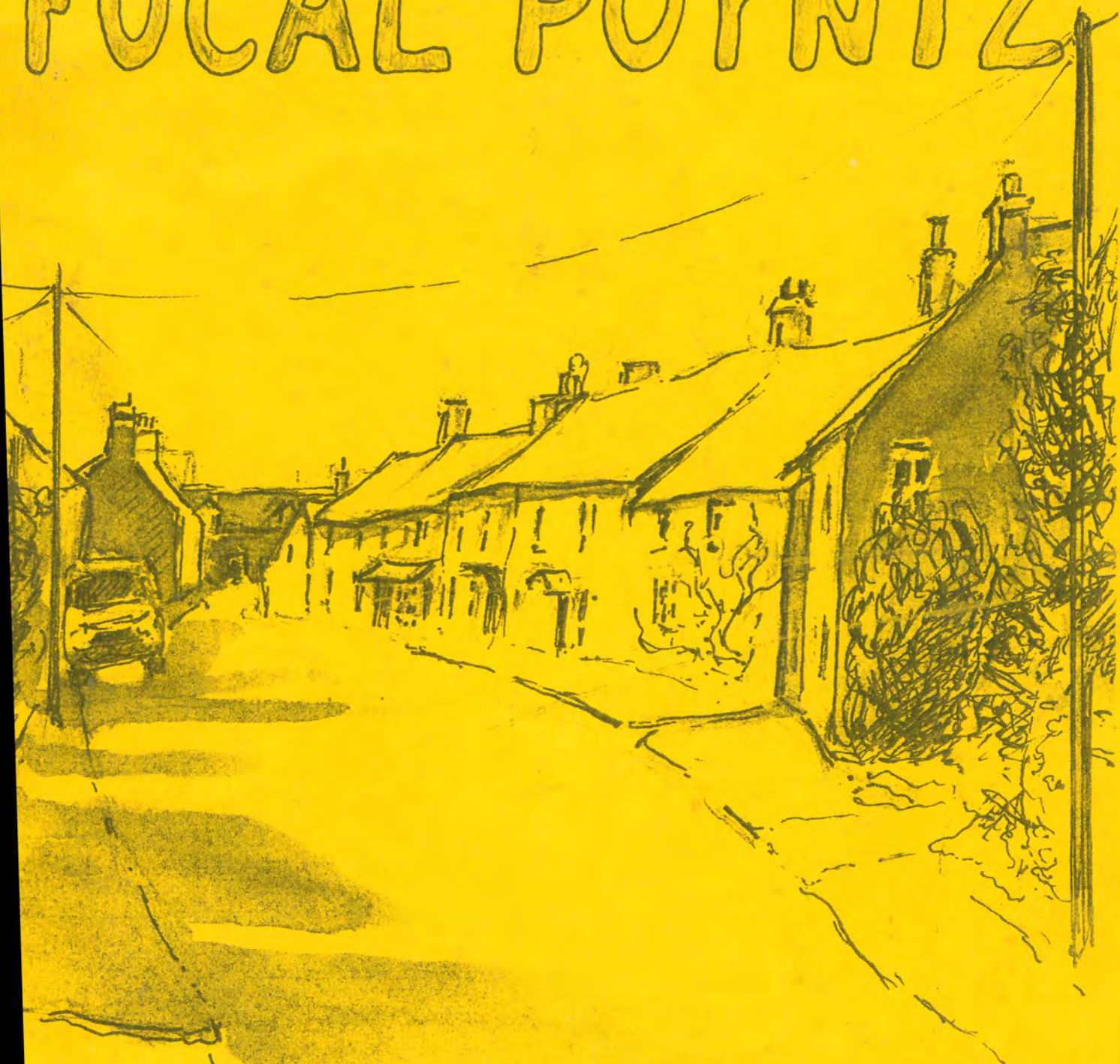


ISSUE N° 94
SUMMER 2014

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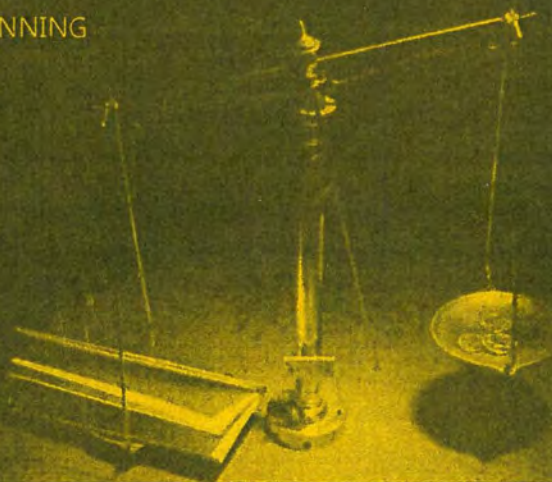
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Catherine Neck
The Smith Family
Laura Walters
Barrie Wright

ARTICLES

If you've got any news or articles that you think we'd like to receive please contact any of the people on the numbers given above. We would love to hear from you!

ADVERTISING

If you would like to place an advert in future issues please contact Barrie Wright - our advertising "whiz" (£20 for a full page and £10 for a half page - invoices can be provided).

PRINTING

As always, our printing has been undertaken by Oldbury Deckers Youth Club and we say a big "thank you" to them.

COVER

Our beautiful cover was drawn by Wendy Dowding

NEXT ISSUE

AUTUMN 2014

Contribution Deadline 25 October

Distribution

Week Ending 29/30 November

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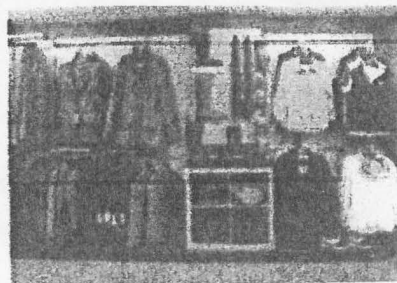
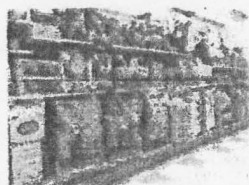
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THE ACTONIANS next production is

Bazaar and Rummage

by

Sue Townsend

27-29 November 2014

7.30 pm - Tickets £10

Book at: www.actonians.co.uk or Call: 07807 547 238

An all-female cast, directed by Nick Sharp, will bring Sue Townsend's comedy alive for your delectation. Set in a village hall (perfect), a group of agoraphobics is brought together as 'therapy' by a would-be social worker.

As you would expect of Sue Townsend (she of 'The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13¾'), there is much humour, but a lot of pathos and many poignant moments as we learn what has caused the women's agoraphobia. So put the dates in your diary now, you are in for a treat!

Our July production (July 25, 26) – 'Going Solo' by Austin Hawkins, was a collection of three one act plays about three individuals involved in the world of theatre (amateur and professional). It has been an honour to produce brand new works and I hope the author approved of our three directors' interpretations. As stage manager, I certainly enjoyed the challenge of running three distinct plays and think the directors (Ann Aplin; Debby Ashton and Mark Whitehouse) and actors did the Actonians proud.

Sarah McMahon (Publicity)

Iron Acton Community Cinema

Yes it's back and it's better than ever.

Iron Acton Community Cinema will:

Have its own equipment - with the help of South Glos County Council and supported by Iron Acton Parish Council we will purchase our own screen, projector and sound system.

Operate under an umbrella licence and therefore be run as a club with membership and a chance to vote for the films of your choice.

Offer free showings at the Children's matinee for children and adults.

Show recent DVD releases.

Offer two showings per month - afternoon and evening.

Offer refreshments at both performances, including a bar in the evening.

Be located in the Parish Hall, Iron Acton.

Start up again in October 2014 and run to March 2015.

Last year we trialed the Community Cinema and hopefully you came along to one of the showings. Despite a good turnout at most events we found we were constantly running at a loss due to the expense of hiring equipment and films and paying for licences and a projectionist and despite the support of our own Acton Aid.

We decided to review the operation and during the last few months have been talking to various local supporting bodies about an alternative approach. We think we've come up with a solution which will enable us to keep your Community Cinema running and we hope you will be able to come along and support it.

What does being 'a club' mean?

It means we will be restricted on how we can both promote and charge for the films we show.

Charging

We are going to offer membership to the club

The charge will be £25 per year (6 months of shows) per adult.

This will need to be paid for in advance.

We may offer the chance for temporary membership at the event but this will be limited to just two shows, per season, per adult and will cost substantially more per show.

All attendance at the matinee showing is free.

Children under 16, who attend any evening performance, will be charged £3.50 per film.

Promotion

We will not be able to advertise the films we show on any public media

So we need everyone to give us their email address so we can let you know about the films

Keep us up to date if it changes because this is how we will let you know what films are being shown and when.

What next?

Firstly, thanks for reading this far! There was a lot to tell you. Now it's your turn. Here's what you need to do to become a member.

Write your name, address and telephone number on a slip of paper - your telephone number is purely in case we need to contact you about payment

Write a cheque for total amount, made payable to:

Iron Acton Film Club. Place in an envelope, seal it, address to Iron Acton Film Club and leave at either the Lamb Inn or White Hart Inn, Iron Acton.

We'll send your membership card to you within 28 days of your cheque clearing.

Keep an eye on your emails for future information about the shows.

Dates for your diary	4 October 2014
	1 November 2014
	6 December 2014
	10 January 2015
	7 February 2015
	7 March 2015

Six events per year, just £25 per season per adult. For further information call 01454 228771. Leave payment in a sealed envelope at either The Lamb or White Hart Inn, Iron Acton.

Thanks for reading. We'll be in touch with more information shortly.

Best wishes
Iron Acton Community Cinema

Extracts From My Secret Diaries – King Henry VIII – (1491 : 1991)

Part 2

In 1513 two events took place that defined the early years of my reign. James IV broke the Treaty of Perpetual Peace and invaded the Northern Orders of England where the English and Scottish armies met at the Battle of Flodden in which the entire nobility of Scotland was wiped out, including King James himself. Indeed, Katherine even sent me a piece of his blood soaked tunic, while at the same time I invaded France and a battle called "The Battle of the Spurs" took place, so called because as soon as the French army saw the English army, they spurred their horses and ran away. A habit that the French seem to have even to this day.

King Louis died several months after Mary's marriage took place, and to my utter surprise and anger she secretly married my best friend Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk. To do this without my permission was technically considered high treason, as any member of the nobility had to have the Monarch's blessing beforehand. I banished them both to Brandon's estates in Suffolk for two years and he had to pay an enormous fine before they were welcomed back to Court.

At last in 1516 a surviving child was born, a daughter, Mary, and to my eternal shame she became infamously known to history as Bloody Mary. I believe you have a modern day drink named after her.

I desperately needed a son to succeed me, after all a woman could not inherit the throne because that would lead to civil war as had happened two hundred years before Matilda.

As tradition dictates, I embarked on an affair with one of my courtier's daughters, Bessie Blount, and in 1518 a surviving son was born. We called him Henry FitzRoy, this last name is given to all illegitimate offspring born of the Monarch. However, for this very reason he could not inherit my throne.

Katherine kept falling pregnant and no further child survived – what was wrong? My conscience would soon reveal to me the truth of the matter.

In 1519 one of the biggest diplomatic events in history took place, "The Field of the Cloth of Gold". A meeting between myself and Francis the First of France. Wolsey excelled himself with his flair for organisation and statesmanship. The meeting took place in a large field just outside Calais, France and lasted ten days. Both the English and French trying to outdo each other in what amounted to diplomatic one-upmanship.

It was while this event took place that a meeting arose between Wolsey and the Bishop of Tarbe. The Bishop raised the question of my marriage with Katherine and the fact that we had not been blessed with a surviving son and heir. He quoted Leviticus from the bible, "if a man should uncover the nakedness of thy brother's wife it is an unclean thing, it is a sin, they shall remain childless" even though we did have a daughter – I still did not have the son that I craved.

It was then that my conscience began to trouble me.

However, in 1520, a stupendous event that would rock the Roman Catholic Church took place that distracted me – Martin Luther's 95 Theses nailed to the doors of Wittenburg Cathedral. This man, a renegade priest, had sought to protest against certain corruptions taking place in the Church. And I, being a staunch Roman Catholic, wrote a book in answer to his diatribe called "The Asserton of the Seven Sacraments".

The Pope was so impressed with this work of theology, that he awarded me the title "Defender of the Faith", a title that has been borne of every monarch since that time and has been stamped on every minted coin of the realm in the form of the initials F.D., or Fidei Defensor" to this day. This made me very proud indeed.

In 1525 I met and fell passionately in love with Anne Boleyn and it was with and because of her that I caused the face of English and ultimately world history to change. I had been having an affair with her sister Mary who was expecting my second illegitimate child.

First saw Anne at a masked ball being held at Wolsey's wonderful home, Hampton Court. She had somewhat become pre-contracted to the Earl of Northumberland's son, Harry Percy, and I was approached to give my blessing and permission for them to marry. I refused, for I had my own hidden agenda, I wanted Anne for my mistress.

There then ensued a battle of wills between us – she would not become my mistress – I tried in vain to command her to do so. The more she withheld the more I fell in love with her. I was so smitten that I wrote poetry to her and composed the song "Greensleeves" in her honour. Of course this situation could not continue and she demanded that she would not share a bed with me unless we were married and she was Queen.

This then brings me to what has become known to history as "the King's Secret Matter".

I recalled the conversation between Wolsey and the Bishop of Tarbe and my conscience began troubling me again, only this time with more insistency.

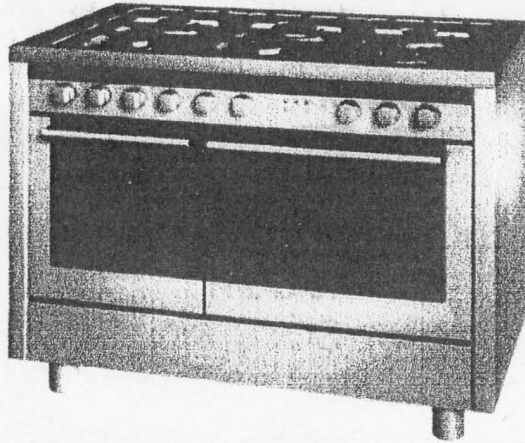
I had a meeting with Wolsey and then told him what I intended to do – divorce Katherine and marry Anne. Wolsey was shocked and horrified – I looked at him and cried "I shall have my way – even if it means splitting the earth in two as an apple and casting it into the void" !!!!! – I then stormed out spluttering with rage and fury.

I commanded Wolsey to go to Rome to obtain a dispensation from the Pope. This was rejected as the Spanish Emperor Charles, Katherine's uncle, had invaded Italy and the Pope was virtually a prisoner in the high mountainous town of Orvieto.

He !! He !! (continuo) He !! He !!

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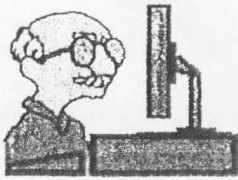
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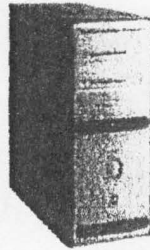
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Acton Aid

The last weekend in June was a big one for Acton Aid. Following on from the success of last year's inaugural event, Mash in the Meadow took place on Friday 27th June. Returning acts Flash Harry and Lizzie Deane were joined by Slapface & the Hoagies and Trevor Moss & Hannah Lou. All the acts put on fantastic performances and it was incredible to see so many people dancing in the meadow as Lizzie Deane wound up the evening. After a quick spruce-up (and a few downpours) during the day on Saturday 28th June, the meadow was ready for Proms in the Meadow. This year Proms in the Meadow coincided with Armed Forces Day and commemorated the centenary of the start of the First World War. Veterans and serving members of the armed forces within Iron Acton were honoured during a programme led by the Bristol Millennium Orchestra with performances from soloist Juliet Curnow, Caroline Huish, the Kathryn Hurley Dance Academy, Bristol Pipes & Drums, Iron Acton Community Choir and the U3A Ukulele Group.

After weeks of dry weather the forecast for Mash and Proms weekend was poor but, incredibly, the weather stayed dry for both evenings (which made up for several soakings throughout the day on Friday and Saturday!) The events are a huge undertaking for Acton Aid. Aside from months of planning, the physical effort takes place over four days. We have already turned our thoughts to Mash and Proms 2015!

Following on swiftly from Mash and Proms, the annual Acton Aid Cultural Trip took place on the first weekend in July. Fort William was the destination this year with the objective of climbing Ben Nevis - the highest mountain in the British Isles at 1,344m above sea level. A party of 15 (with 55 years between the youngest and oldest - names have been withheld to protect the innocent!) set off from the foot of the mountain after a highland breakfast. Again, we were incredibly lucky with the weather, walking mainly in bright sunshine. The quicker walkers in the party made the summit in about three hours with those walking at a more measured pace following within a couple of hours. All 15 posed together for a photo on the summit cairn before heading back down to the hospitality that awaited us at the Ben Nevis Inn!

Since the last edition of Focal Poyntz, in addition to Mash and Proms and the Cultural Trip, Acton Aid has participated in the Big Spring Clean organised by Iron Acton Parish Council, held the second Acton Aid Karting Grand Prix (won by Tony Harris) and run the barbeque at May Day. Also since the last edition, Acton Aid has welcomed James Anthony, Mike Ford and Andrew Williamson as new members.

Looking ahead, Acton Aid's next event is the Iron Acton Beer Festival on Saturday 6th September, 4:00pm to 9:30pm in the Parish Hall garden. This time we will be celebrating the fantastic beers available locally. There will be a selection of the finest brews made within a 10 mile radius of the village as well as refreshing cider and great wines. Tickets are £7 per adult if bought by 31st August and £9 per adult afterwards. This includes a special edition Beer Festival glass and first drink. Tickets for accompanied children under 18 are 50p each which include a soft drink.

Acton Aid meetings take place at The Lamb Inn at 8:00pm on the first Thursday of each month. Meetings have the minimum of formality. Fundraising events and the distribution of resources are discussed and planned over a pint or two.

Readers who wish to find out more about Acton Aid or who are aware of a Parishioner who would benefit from the support of Acton Aid are invited to contact the Chairman, Rob Pardoe on 228277 or the Secretary, Jason Haselhan on 228791, in confidence.

Jason Haselhan
Secretary

Musical Christmas Evening

Saturday, 20th December 4.00 - 6.00pm

Keep the date and watch this space. A fun time for all the family.

To be held in the Parish Hall car park, there will be;

- The Dodington Brass Band playing.
- The Iron Acton Community choir singing.
- The Iron Acton Clangers ringing hand bells.
- Carols for all to sing.
- Games etc for children.
- Roasted chestnuts.
- Mulled wine.
- Ales, lagers etc.
- Mince pies.
- Other food and drinks for adults and children.

NO ENTRANCE FEE

Volunteering in Ghana

What does your grandmother do when she doesn't want you home for the whole summer? Sends you to Africa of course! This is exactly what happened to me for 3 weeks.

I went to volunteer in a school for underprivileged and orphaned children. This involved teaching the children one to one, either Mathematics or English. Some of the children were incredibly bright and had a very good knowledge and understanding while others didn't understand basic English or Maths, which was very sad. There were children at the school who were all at different abilities but their education level was not dependant on age as some of the older children were at the level of a 6 year old.

I was teaching one girl in particular called Alice. She was an incredibly bright child and could easily count to 100, easily added number up to 20, easily recognise animals and could pick out any letter of the alphabet and name a word beginning with that letter without a problem. It was sad when I had to go though, as I saw her progress when we started to learn subtraction which once she got she was amazingly happy with and her whole face lit up.

During the afternoons I would go teach lessons to children at the School Of Excellence. This involved planning lessons for the children and then making sure it suited their abilities and it was clear and easy for them to understand. This was very enjoyable and these children were also from very poor backgrounds but it was nice to see how excited they were to learn and that they actually wanted homework!

When I wasn't teaching at the School Of Excellence I was either visiting the pool and trying not to come home white, or exploring Ghana or experiencing the craft market! The craft market was a very interesting experience. As I was walking around the craft market people would grab my arm and pull me into their store to make me buy things and see what they had. Once I got use to this I was able to say no, but before this point it was very hard to do so. Another big part of Ghanaian culture is to haggle the price of something you are about to buy. I found this very enjoyable and always managed to get it to the price I wished!

Overall I had the most amazing experience in Ghana and I would recommend that if anyone ever gets the chance to go then to do it as it will change you as a person for the better and the things you experience will stay with you forever and the friends you make will be for life.

I've been invited for holidays to all parts of the world and of course, I have invited all my new friends to visit Iron Acton!

N.B To all grandparents, save up and send your grandchildren to volunteer in Ghana it will be money well spent.

Charlotte

Horticultural Show 2014

This year's show is fast approaching and Saturday, 6th September will soon be here!

One addition to this year's show is a children's photography class. This was at the request of Iron Acton Primary School's After-School Photography Club. This class is entirely separate to the main Schedule, and open to children who attend the After-School Club. Points awarded for this class will not be included or added to other classes entered. The subject is 'a portraiture' and will be judged completely separately from the other classes in the Children's Section.

So, happy growing, baking, arranging and making!

Iron Acton Horticultural Show

North Road Community Primary School

This academic year, as usual, has flown by. September sees lots of exciting things happening in schools. Our school kitchen is prepared for all the extras dinners, From September all children in reception, year 1 and 2 will be entitled to a free school meal. South Glos have put together a lovely menu which includes curry and rice, beefburgers, salad and our regular twice a week roast's which are always popular. The curriculum will also be changing and we have prepared some fantastic

and engaging topics to deliver this through. Details can be found on our school website.

We are going to continue with and build on this years sporting success. In September we are going to have a dance club, ball skills, cross country, multi sports as well as a French club, photography, ocarina, drama and science clubs.

This year we had our 1st ever skipathon. The children had been in training in their PE lesson and at lunchtimes so they could skip non-stop for 3.5 minute, the length of the Ollie Murs track 'My Heart Skips A Beat'. The children skipped in their houses and raised a MASSIVE amount of money for the British Heart Foundation. In total we raised £1159.06. The British Heart Foundation came to collect our cheque. Thank you to everyone who supported this charity and our event. This year we used a maths problem solving book as our theme for world book day. Everyone, teachers and children, came dressed as rabbits. The Mad Hatter's lunch was a particular success, thank you to Mrs Ponting and Mrs Tomasin. Pictures can be seen on the school website.

This year we took part in the St. Georges Day celebrations by Yate Heritage Centre. Ocarina and Dance clubs performed and represented our school superbly. We hope to make this an annual event.

Brimsham Green Languages Department led a French day for our year 5 and 6 pupils this year. The children really enjoyed learning games and some of the language. In September we hope to use their expertise's to deliver languages in our school. Our year 5 and 6 camping trip was another success. The whole school travelled to the Redwood Estate near Slimbridge, for a day of outdoor den building, pond dipping, orienteering and nature exploring. After everyone else returned to school we pitched our tents and enjoyed a well-deserved BBQ. The weather didn't dampen our spirits and much fun was had by all.

The loom band craze has hit our school and lunchtimes haven't been the same since. The children have been so creative and worked well together to show each other how to make different styles as well as making each other bracelets. It has been really lovely to see.

The end of term saw our annual summer disco which was held at Yate Town Football Club, this was enjoyed by all and we wish our year 6 lots of luck on their journey at secondary school.

The summer fair was also replaced with a family orienteering event organised by Mrs Trickey. The families had to find 10 posts in the local area before finishing back at school for a cream tea. It was great to see old and young alike enjoying the local area.

We were delighted to receive our Foundation Stage Bristol Standard again. This means that foundation stage is quality assured by the local authority.

As the summer holidays draw near we are busy getting ready to welcome everyone back- especially our new families. This year we were over subscribed for our 15 places, the first time in a few years. We are already showing families around for reception 2015, please see the school website for details or call the office on 01454 867788. The children have already spent the last few days of term in their new classes so are well prepared to come back to school and carrying on the good work they did last year.

Our Macmillan coffee morning is planned for 9-11am on Friday, 26 September, please pop along for a drink and slice of cake and help us to raise money for a very worthy cause. For other school events please check our school website www.northroadprimaryschool.co.uk

Jo Williams
Head Teacher
North Road Community Primary
01454 867788

My War

A True Record of National Service 1960 - 1962

The first part of this diary was published in Focal Poyntz in 2012 and 2013. The whole work has now been printed and deliveries to requesters have been made. If you would like a copy (free) delivered, contact Geoff Dickes on 01454 228609.

Iron Acton Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting:- The 2014 Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Parish Hall on Thursday 8th May. Attendance at the meeting was good with some 25 parishioners in attendance. The Parish Council had invited all organisations/groups within the parish to attend the meeting in order to give an insight into their activities over the previous year. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting have been posted in draft format on the Parish Council web site.

The current line-up of Iron Acton Parish Councillors is as follows:-

East War	Iron Acton Ward
Bob Sheppard	Peter Bellis (Chairman)
Bob Lomas	Lynne Blanchard
Howard Gawler	Chris Heal (Vice Chairman)
Andy Tillotson	Dave Taylor
	Peter Huish

Web Site

The Parish Council web site (www.ironactonparishcouncil.com) provides general information on matters relating to the parish. The agenda for the forthcoming meeting and approved minutes of previous meetings are posted to the site in pdf format. The web site is a complimentary tool to the activities of the Parish Council and as always all official documents relating to the Parish Council can be viewed by any member of the parish upon request. I would point out that the only officially legal documents are those held by the Clerk. The web site is updated as frequently as is practically possible.

As always, if you have any issues relating to Parish matters, please contact either your Councillor, or the Clerk.

Allotments

Both allotment sites in the Parish continue to flourish despite a very wet start to the season. Waiting lists for allotments are at an all time low and so if you are keen to join the increasing band of allotment gardeners, please contact Donna Beal, the Parish Clerk.

The following is from the Chairman, Peter Bellis and not the opinion of the Parish Council.

Communication

One of the things that often comes up, is how can we communicate best with the parishioners? We are immensely appreciative of Focal Poyntz because of it's reach to every household in the Parish. We also try to make good use of our Parish Council website, although from time to time we are held up by technical problems (we are not alone in this, S Glos have had similar problems recently). If there is a really burning issue we can think about flyers to every household, but this is expensive and time consuming- we can't do this very often. However we will do it where we think it's necessary, for example on the sites & places planning consultation. Don't forget you can always come to the meetings! Apart from that, please do speak to any of your Parish Councillors - we appreciate the people who take the trouble to do that.

South Gloucestershire Sites & Places Planning

Planning procedures and laws are a constantly changing situation. Broadly speaking, if S Glos don't have workable planning policies in place, against which planning applications can be considered, then developers may be in the position to bypass all local consideration and seek a decision direct from the Secretary of State. So we have tried to make sure that we give a credible input on behalf of the Parish when S Glos are drawing up their policies. Recently we helped S Glos to hold a drop-in consultation meeting. This was well attended by parishioners and S Glos were impressed by the thought that Iron Acton were giving this matter.

Traffic in High St, Holly Hill, Nibley Lane

Most people are probably aware that due to the building of a replacement bridge, Church Road in Frampton Cotterell will be shut for at least 6 weeks over the summer holiday. This will have a severe impact on traffic using the above roads in Iron Acton. I, together with other Parish Councillors, have met S Glos Councillors and Officers, as well as representatives from other affected parishes. The aim of this was to ensure that all reasonable and legal options were being considered to deal with the problem. Well the short answer is, yes they are, but actually there's not much more can be done to make things better than last time. Extra & earlier signs have gone up to help people think about how to plan their journeys, and the traffic light phasing on the bypass will be weighted more towards keeping the through traffic moving on the bypass. This will mean that it might take longer to get out of the village so it's not always a good answer but overall in this situation it should help. The traffic engineers suggest that vehicles parked in the street (providing they do not actually cause an obstruction) help to keep speeds down.

Location of Parish Council Meetings

We currently meet in 3 locations - North Road School, the Marshall Rooms and the Parish Hall. There are advantages and disadvantages to moving the meetings

around. With planning, it is becoming important for us to be able to make use of the S Glos planning website during our meetings and to project images onto a screen or suitable wall. This points towards one location being better, together with advantages of other document storage if we settle on one location. On the other hand, there are considerations of how easy is it for people to get to meetings, with a significant proportion of the parishioners being part of an individual community in and around North Road. The Parish Councillors can form an opinion about what is best, but how much does it matter to you and what do you think about it? Please let us know.

Grass Cutting On Verges

You will have started to see the effect of what we have mentioned earlier in the year - because of budget pressures, S Glos are not cutting grass on verges to the same frequency. Our options as a Parish were to settle for this, or to pay to have extra cuts, either by S Glos or by a suitable contractor arranged by us. So far we have taken the route of saving your money. However, would you like to see some extra grass cutting, particularly in areas where the Parish is particularly on view? Once again, we need to know what you think so please let us know.

Donna Beal
Clerk - Iron Acton Parish Council
01454 501134
Email: ironactonparishcouncil@hotmail.com

North Road Ladies Club

On 21 March we held a very successful Skittles Evening in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. Yate Town Football Club kindly allowed us to use their skittles alley for this event.

In April we enjoyed a Fashion Show organized by Bon Marche. Five of our members volunteered to be models and they were extremely good, each appearing in three different outfits.

A new member joined us for our May meeting and 33 members listened to Alex Myrie explaining her work as an animal Welfare Officer for the Stroud area. This was a very interesting and informative talk.

At our June meeting Kim Western, Manager of Lakeland Kitchenware at Cribbs Causeway, displayed a variety of kitchen products. She demonstrated one of their latest utensils for decorating cakes and our members were invited to try their skills at decorating the plain cup cakes which Kim had brought with her. Kim also told us of how Lakeland Kitchenware originated.

Also in June we held a Summer Fayre to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society and once again Yate Town Football Club kindly gave us the use of their premises. This event was very well supported and was a most enjoyable afternoon.

Monday evening, 7 July, proved to be a lovely warm evening for our visit to New House Farm, Tytherington. There were 46 people in our party (including husbands and friends) and Richard Cornock gave us a guided tour of the land belonging to

New House Dairy Farm. There was much intrigue when we stopped at a large oak tree and Richard asked us all to guess how old the tree is. After the tour we sat on straw bales for a much appreciated cup of tea or coffee and some delicious cakes. What more could you wish for on a warm summer's evening!!

We hold our meetings in Iron Acton Parish Hall, usually on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm and new members are always most welcome.

We do not hold a meeting during August, but our next meeting will be on Monday, 1 September.

June Rycroft
Club Secretary

Iron Acton C of E VC Primary School

Another year nearly over- where did the time go? Year 6 pupils are looking forward to their new schools; our pupils have visited their new classrooms and/or met their new teachers. The new Reception children and parents have come for an Induction meetings and lunch. All around school Prom outfits are being organised and end of term events planned.

This is always a very busy term and the pupils would like to tell you some of the things they have been doing.

Year 6 Camp by Leah and Eloise

On the second of June, year 6 went to Treglisson camp site in Cornwall. When we got there we played on the swings, had lunch put up our tents and put our stuff away.

Then we went and said "hello" to Colin and Deb (the cooks). On Tuesday we went to Sennen Cove lifeboat and Bernard Leach pottery. On Wednesday we sailed our boats on the lake - Eloise and Josh's were the only ones that did not capsize. After that we went shopping and had a beach BBQ. We jumped the waves and nearly fell in - everyone was flying kites. On Thursday we went sailing. Then on Friday we came home. It was a brilliant week.

Class 2 Visit to Bristol by Haydn and Faith

We walked slowly to the minibus for our school trip. When we got there, we strolled around Bristol. We ate our snacks happily and then we walked to the library. Then we had lunch. We walked out of the library and got on the ferry. We shouted loudly when we went under a tunnel.

Class 2 Visit by Natalia and George

We went to Bristol on the 1st of July. Our coach was called Hercules. To be prepared we had to wear wrist bands. When we were on the minibus we spotted graffiti and Street Art by Banksy. When we got there our adults had clipboards with photographs. We had to spot the places as we walked around. After our snack we went to see Banksy's Art on buildings. At the library we looked at different books. After lunch we had a chance to go on a boat ride around the harbour. Then it was time to meet our minibus and come home. It was fantastic.

Year 5 Enrichment Week by Olivia

While year 6 were on camp, we spent a week exploring Bristol. We spent two mornings at the Climbing Centre. The walls were really tall but lots of us went to the top. We had to work in 3s helping each other to climb. I loved it when we went climbing. We wore helmets and harnesses. There were mats everywhere so if we fell we would not get hurt. In the afternoons we went on a walk around Bristol looking at Street Art and visited the homeless night shelter. We tried different sports such as Boxing and Tae Kwando.

Sports Day by Henry

Everyone went in a world cup team. My team was Brazil. I ran as fast as a racing car. We shouted loudly at our team to win.

Brass Club by Joshua and Lucy Ann

"Hello" this is brass club. Today we will be telling you how brass works. Our club takes place Wednesday lunchtimes and our teacher is Mr Rogers. We play cornet, trombone, baritone and French horn. We play games such as 'hide the mouth piece' and 'what's for tea tonight?' We love brass and can't wait to do more.

Football Club by Zachary

On Tuesday we do football club with Billy and Richard. Billy has a world cup football.

Multiskills Club by Ben

Multiskills is cool - so come now. Mr Griggs teaches us Frisbee, football dribbling and golf.

Make Your Move Dance Day by Rogue and Olivia

On 21st June ten talented dancers from our street dance group went to Bradley Stoke. We waited in the dressing room nervously. Eventually we had a dress rehearsal - then the real thing. We had to perform in front of lots of people. We won two certificates; one for fund raising and another for attention to detail. We raised £225 for the Red Cross.

Tortworth Dance Day by Jenna and Mia

Class 2 went to Tortworth School for a dance day. There were lots of small schools. We did 3 dances: muffin man, fish and chips and the snake. Our dance club performed their street dance. Then we got a biscuit and a drink.

I would like to thank everyone in the village who has helped the school during the year through supporting our fundraisers, joining in our special events, donating vouchers, sending in plants or indeed helped in any other way. A special thank you to members of the church who have freely given their time to run a weekly "Open the Book" service for our youngest children. As a small school we always thankful for the support we get from the village.

Jill Bendeaux

Iron Acton Women's Institute

We've had a few animal themed talks this year, starting with the speaker from Avon Riding Centre and continuing in March with Pam Weaver, who spoke about training animals for films. Pam found herself providing animals for film and TV by accident over twenty years ago. She was at a show with her Dexter cattle when she was spotted by film makers of Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves, starring Kevin Costner, who wanted cows with horns in the film. She so enjoyed the experience on the film set that she was happy to continue providing animals and appearing herself as an extra in many films and TV series since, including Lark Rise to Candleford and Tess of the d'Urbervilles. She provides a range of farmyard animals including chickens, ducks, geese, goats, pigs and cows. It was a fascinating insight into a world most of us never get to see or experience.

This was followed in April by Verna Clifford, who is registered blind, speaking about not only her guide dog, Cody, but the various gadgets that make her daily life much easier. As well as a speaking clock and a "talking calendar", she has a digital recorder to enable her to remember the various washing machine programmes, a talking filofax which, after speaking the name of the contact, will dial up automatically and talking timers and calculators. She spoke of the kitchen aids that are available for measuring liquids and weighing ingredients and of the speaking books available from libraries on disk, free to the blind. Most of us were also unaware that books of stamps come with notches on to be able to differentiate between first and second class stamps. She then spoke of Cody, a Labrador cross, and the immense difference he makes to her life. He sounds a real character who is not adverse to stealing food and eating socks and chamois leathers if given the chance! Each guide dog costs approximately £50,000 to train, its upkeep and so on. So that absolutely everyone who is entitled to, and would like a guide dog, is not penalised by being unable to afford the upkeep, food, vets fees etc, they cost only a nominal 50 pence to the owner and all expenses are then covered by the Guide Dog charity. We learnt a lot more about this worthwhile charity and the daily obstacles faced by the blind from Verna and were happy to make a donation on her behalf.

For something completely different we welcomed Ross from SITA UK to talk about the recycling in South Gloucestershire. Poor Ross had to take some of the angst felt by members regarding the recent charging of £36 to have garden waste taken away but he answered all the criticism in a professional and good natured way. He also explained about where the food waste is sent for recycling (Oxford) and electronics to Newport in Wales. He said that because of the high cost of some of the super duper recycling machines that are available in some areas, it is still cost effective to recycle as much as possible, even if it can't all be done locally. Some of us had never received some of the recycling bags or boxes available for cardboard and newspapers etc so we were able to leave our names and addresses and these were duly delivered to us the following week.

The June outing was to Dewstow Gardens and Grottoes in Caerwent, South Wales. It was fortunately a fine evening and a group of members and their families enjoyed first some tea and cake and a brief film explaining the gardens before exploring for themselves. The gardens date back to 1893 when the estate was purchased by Henry Oakley, remaining in his possession until his death in 1940. A unique garden with subterranean grottoes was created but, having no descendents, the gardens were filled in and reverted to pastureland. As there were no records, the buried gardens were forgotten until 2000 when the Harris family bought the land and

evidence began to emerge of the amazing gardens. The trip was very much enjoyed and would be recommended to anyone who is interested in more unusual gardens.

May Day was once again hugely successful, aided by another year of good weather. The village green and surrounding area remained busy all day. Our bric-a-brac stall was once again full of interesting and varied artefacts and as usual anything that was left over was taken away and three charity shops benefited. One item that never made the stall was a hostess trolley, being donated by Rona. Someone from Paul's Place, a charity we had previously invited to speak at a meeting, enquired about the cost as at present they had to rely on one of their volunteers taking in theirs. Rona gladly donated the trolley on behalf of the WI and the representative from Paul's Place was immensely grateful for the gesture.

As a change from our usually July walk, we are gathering at Jacksons for a skittles evening. As well as hopefully being a fun evening, there will be some serious training for this year's inter-WI skittles competition, which so far has only ever seen us through to round 2 and that only because we had a bye on that occasion!

We have upcoming speakers in the autumn on basket making and a flower demonstration and our Secretary, Stella Taylor, can be contacted on 01454 228417 for more information on our activities and our meetings which are held in the Parish Hall on the second Monday of the month.

Sylvie Powell

Friends of Iron Acton Primary School

May Day on the Green seems eons ago but what a great day we all had! Thank you to everyone who supported Friends' Tombola/Sweets/Drinks Stall. The sun shone, we sold out of everything on the day and we made a good profit for the fundraising efforts of May Day. And a special mention to our Maypole Dancers who performed twice on the day. They outdid themselves and were a pleasure to teach. Not one mistake was made in any of the dances and I look forward to teaching them again next year.

Since May Day we've been busy organising several events one of which was our Family Fun Night on Friday 20th June. Instead of the traditional Summer Fair, this year Karen Parker, our ideas Guru, came up with the brilliant plan to hold a 'Games' night with activities based on The Crystal Maze, Fort Boyard and Swashbuckle. Thanks so much to everyone who came to this event. Over 100 adults and children supported us and I think I can safely say, everyone really enjoyed the 'Skittles', the 'Dress the Scarecrow', the 'Tower-Build', the 'Code Breaker' and 'Cake-tastic'.

Sports' Day at the School shortly followed our Fun Night where Friends donated much needed ice lollies to the hot and weary children. And on the subject of donations, Friends have recently given £700 to the School for IT equipment and £150 for books. We are in the process of funding 'memorabilia plaques' (wooden tiles upon which every Year 6 pupil leaves a lasting message. These will then be displayed on the wall of our PTA Shed) and are hoping to make a donation towards the new Class 1 Shelter. This is currently in the planning stage but will provide a much needed shaded outdoor space for the Key Stage 1 children within the School.

Last weekend, Friends supported the Village Church Fair by holding an Ice Cream Stall. Thanks again to everyone who bought an ice cream! We made a little bit of money and donated it to the Church. We look forward to supporting this event again next year.

On Saturday July 19th we will be holding our annual 'End of School Year Prom' in the Parish Hall. Every year this is a brilliantly supported event and gives us the opportunity to say a fond farewell to our current Year 6 pupils. This year, DJ Noel will be entertaining the children as usual with his contemporary 'tunes', hot dogs will be served, a licensed bar will be run and all children will have the opportunity to pose for a special Prom Photo. We wish all Year 6 pupils luck, good health and happiness in their new adventures beyond Iron Acton Primary School.

Then, before we know it, it will be the end of term and the end of another busy Friends' year.

For those of you who have children starting the School in September, Friends are holding a coffee and cake morning on the very first day of term (Tuesday 2nd September). Please do all come along to The Lamb Inn straight after morning school drop off. Whether you feel joyous or weepy, there will be a cake with your name on it and, you never know, you may stay longer than you anticipated.

A general note from Friends - every first Friday of the month we hold a social gathering for all parents/carers attached to the School. We announce these via the School Newsletter and on our Facebook page. Facebook wise, whether you use the site or not, if you type in 'Friends of Iron Acton Primary School' and follow the links, you will find useful information about our Socials and also about other upcoming events. Our August 'Friends Friday' will be fairly low key as many of us will be away on holiday but keep an eye on Facebook for the final plans.

We are always actively seeking new members to Friends. We have meetings generally once every half term in generally one of our local Public Houses. Our meetings are informal and fun and there is no pressure placed on anyone to do anything. We simply welcome new ideas and a willingness to help with events where possible. It's also a great way to meet people and make new friends.

For more information, please email me on anniekinghome@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Happy Summer everyone
Annie King
Chair of Friends

Iron Acton Community Choir

We are now basking in the pleasure gained from our second Proms in the Meadow performance. Singing with the Bristol Millennium Orchestra was both a challenge and a privilege and we particularly enjoyed being conducted by John Pitts, who led us with both skill and great enthusiasm. It also allowed me to sing with the choir for the first time in performance which I especially relished. The opportunity to be fully involved with the commemorative aspects of the event was particularly appreciated. The event also allowed the men in the choir to shine with their rendition of "pack up your troubles" and we enjoyed that very much.

We are developing our familiarity and understanding of the learning and singing process and becoming much more adept at picking up on new songs to enhance our repertoire. We continue to rehearse on a Tuesday evening from 20.30 in the Parish Hall and although we really do fill the space when we are all there and there is a waiting list for new members we welcome inquiries and would certainly be keen to welcome more men if we can find the space! There is no audition process just a desire and enthusiasm to sing and a willingness to work hard and have fun.

We have been asked to sing at the upcoming Village Christmas event on the 20th December and we will be preparing for that over the coming months.

If you have any queries or inquiries then please do not hesitate to contact me on robpar DOE@gmail.com

May Day on the Green 2014

Very briefly, thank you to everyone who helped make May Day on the Green the success that it was. We didn't think last year could be topped weather wise, but the weather was kind to us once again and people turned up in their droves.

A special thank you goes to the following people;

To Alicia Scott, George Johnson, Leah Serle-Sandy and Holly King for looking the part in their roles as May Queen, May King and Attendants. You all looked amazing!

To the lovely Christine for crowning the May Queen, King and Attendants.

To Organic Blooms for the beautiful May Queen and Attendant head-dresses and the hair bands for the Maypole Dances.

To Iron Acton School pupils for taking the trouble to create lovely designs for the front cover of the May Day Programme.

To Bob Allen for being the dedicated MC.

To Westerleigh Brass Band who unfailingly entertain the crowds every year.

To the Dixie Belles who performed at the end of the Day and were a resounding success.

To all those who performed in the show ring.

To all those who ran a stall - you know who you are.

To all the Parish individuals and Organisations who pulled together and helped the Day happen.

To all the Committee Members who worked hard to ensure the Day progressed without too many hitches.

And finally to Tracey Byrne for making the Day possible and leading the Committee so brilliantly! We salute you! The May Day Committee 2014 has already met to discuss May Day 2015. If you would like to join us next year and share your ideas/experiences/physical help then do please get in touch with Tracey Byrne at The Lamb Inn. All members of the Parish are welcome.

Annie King
On behalf of the May Day Committee

St James the Less Church

It takes more than a few drops of rain to deter the keen shopper in Iron Acton and so it was that many headed for the summer fete held partly to supplement church funds but mainly to provide something nice to do on a Saturday afternoon.

There were a range of stalls from Bristol Water & the RSPB plus local traders selling a variety of craft items plus traditional games of skill and luck for young and old. If you missed it why not try the Christmas Fayre on the 15th November.

As mentioned before the current PCC is working hard to help put the Church back in its traditional place in the community as a centre of support regardless of faith and make it a building of warm inclusiveness.

So with that in mind we will be trying to organise some events that we hope that many will come to without fear just to enjoy good company and some fun. The aim is to breathe life back into the building through its use and help extend the vibrant sense of community that Iron Acton already has.

To do this we need support from the wider community and this can be achieved in a number of ways that won't always involve the collection of money! What we really need is enthusiasm and a desire to make things happen in a positive way and I'm sure there are those with brilliant ideas on how to make village life better that just haven't had the opportunity to express them. Well then .. now's the time!

The role of the PCC is having to adapt as the new Benefice takes shape so it is a good time to remodel it in a way that fits with our 21st Century lifestyle. Whilst we haven't quite got to Skype conferencing in place of regular meetings we will be meeting less frequently. Development of a 'Friends of the Church' group is something under serious consideration as this would give greater scope for fundraising and relieving the burden of quite a small PCC group.

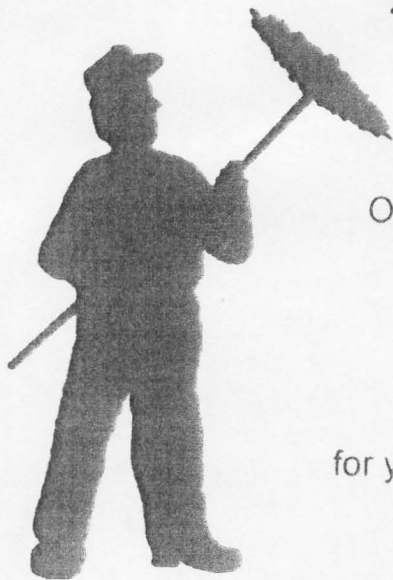
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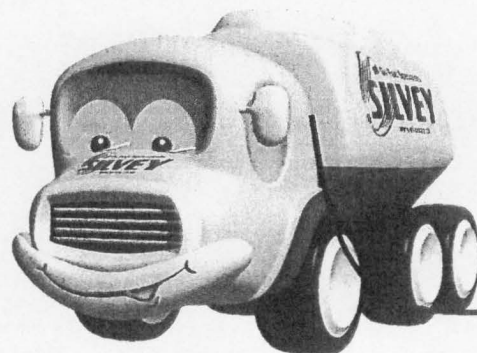
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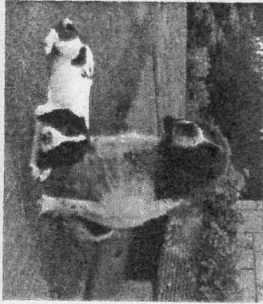
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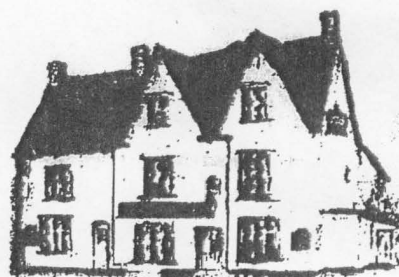


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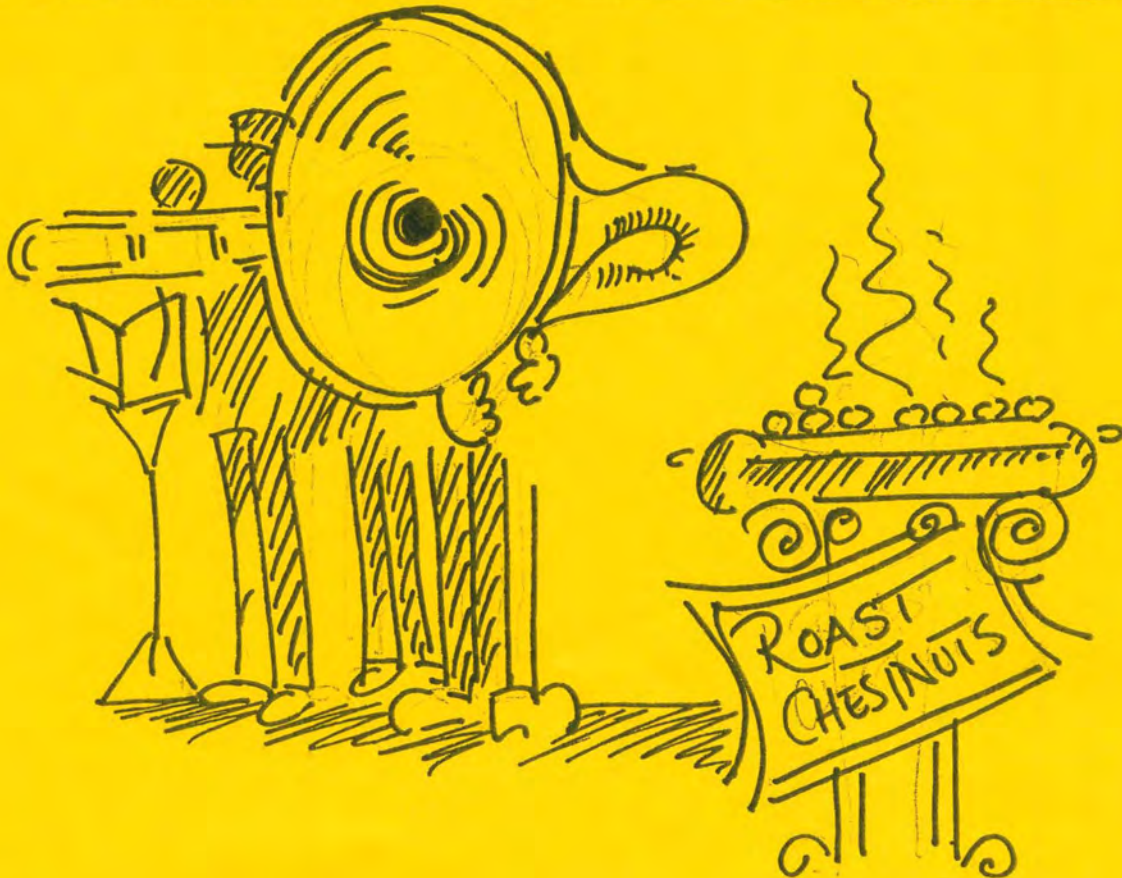
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